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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**BY CABLE**

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Views on Significance of Shvernik's Visit to Germany and Possible New Soviet Foreign Policy toward the West

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. [ ] Shvernik's visit to East Germany emphasized the importance that the Soviets attach to the DDR and demonstrated complete Soviet domination of the DDR. It also underlined Stalin's belief that the current tensions will not develop into war in the immediate future. Finally, Shvernik's visit emphasized the sovietization of East Germany and its inclusion in the Soviet orbit, without reference to the unity theme.
- 25X1 2. A shift in Soviet policy from pressure for a four-power conference is noted. The Soviet aim now is to be the division of the Allies among themselves. [ ] the past Soviet propaganda line of "joint attack on the USSR" has made the Allies more unsure and impatient in their demands on one another. Thus, the continuation of the alliance becomes increasingly questionable. The current difficulties between the U.S. and France constitute a threat to EDC ratification, without any further Communist pressure. France is already the weakest link in the alliance because of numerous internal difficulties, and U.S. attention and favors to Germany are increasing French anti-American sentiment. Stalin reportedly believes that a serious Franco-American rupture is inevitable. Finally, the abstention of England from the Western European community increases the explosiveness of the situation. The growing estrangement between European and American powers makes the West insecure and

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militarily weak; and this weakness will lead to a split, thereby increasing Soviet prospects.

3. Prior to the Party Congress, Soviet military circles reportedly favored a preventive war launched by the Communists because of their clear military superiority. However, Malenkov and the party leadership opposed the theory because of the West's economic superiority. Stalin's Bolshevik article appeared to resolve the conflict in Malenkov's favor and the military's political power was restrained by Stalin's concentrating propaganda on the Party. The long-popular theory that the West wants to attack the USSR is now being displaced by the belief that war will come sooner among the capitalistic countries than an attack on the USSR by those countries.

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